4-25-97

VALLEY STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Volume 50, Issue 11 Friday, April 25, 1997

HIGHLIGHTS

MUSIC

The Campus Concert series will feature the **Valley Symphony Orchestra**, Robert Chauls conducting, in a Schubert Bicentennial Event concert at the Little Theatre, Friday at 8 p.m. Admission is $10 general, $7 students and seniors.

The Campus Concert Series will present the **LAVC Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra**, Robert Mayeur, director, at the Music Recital Hall Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $6 general, $5 students and seniors.

SPORTS

The Valley softball team will play Santa Monica Community College at the Valley softball field Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

ACADEMICS

The **commencement marshals** chosen for the May 22 graduation commencement are Yancy Duncan and Pat Allen, chosen by the students, and Bill Edler and Mary Ellen Pangonis, chosen by the faculty.

Applications for the **President's Award for Outstanding Leader** are available in the Office of Student Services, CC-104A (Ext. 243/244). The deadline for consideration is today.

The next scheduled **math competency exam** to meet the math competency requirement for the Associate Degree will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Administration Building, room 126.

Graduation for eligible Los Angeles Valley College students will be held at Monarch Stadium, Thursday, May 22 at 5 p.m.

Admissions would like to remind students who have recently moved to fill out a **change of address** form available at the information desk.

Registration postcards for the Summer and Fall semesters of 1997 will be mailed to notify students of their telephone registration appointments.

Guaranteed registration will be held in Monarch Hall May 7 from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the Fall semester.

CLUBS

Hillel, the Valley College Jewish club, will host a seminar in Monarch Hall from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday: "Three lives, Three journeys: A Holocaust Remembrance." It will feature speakers Erika Jacoby and Cesia Kingston, Holocaust survivors and Trudi Alexy will speak about how she and her family survived the Holocaust as hastily baptized Catholics in Fascist Franco Spain.

The **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society** will meet Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Physics Building, room 100. Elections for new officers will be conducted during the meeting.

POLICE WATCH

Two large tree branches fell April 14 in lot A damaging four vehicles. The trees in lot A were trimmed Saturday.

A woman was verbally abused by a man in lot E near the stadium Monday.

Information provided by Campus Police.

LAVC Celebrates Women's Day

■Campus Event: The Associated Student Union hosts a multi-arts event celebrating the diversity, unity and solidarity of womanhood.

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valley College students and community visitors gathered in Monarch Hall Friday evening for poignant guest speakers and music, dance, comedy and theater performances in celebration of International Women's Day.

"This event was put together to celebrate womanhood and bring cultures together," said Alison Scallorns, ASU Commissioner of Evening Division and coordinator of the event. "We wanted to show women are special and all people are special."

Colorful costumes and magnificent feathered headdresses adorned guest Aztec dancers, "Nauhi Ollin," meaning "for movement" as they performed athletic traditional dances to live drums, flute and percussion.

"The woman bears child and brings forth out of the womb like mother earth that makes things bloom," Valley College student and dancer Cecilia Ayala said in describing one of the Aztec dances.

See Women Page 2

"Women can be much more than pregnant and barefoot. They can go to school, raise children and work at the same time. Many do and many excel."
- Armineh Hacopian, Ed.D.

(Above) Valley College student Cecilia Ayala performs a traditional Aztec dance in celebration of women at the ASU multi-arts event last week; (Top Right) Comedienne Carmen Recker portrays one of many humorous roles women play in our society; (Right) Black Student Union dancers Wilma Monroe, Latreece Rutherford and Inetri Brazil dance to African drums.

Photos by Luis Vasquez

Top Achievers Given Well-Earned Honor

By ALLEN COCHRANE
STAR REPORTER

For many of Valley's brightest and most industrious students, the Dean's Reception for honor students held at Monarch Hall last week was the time and place to receive accolades for their hard work put into the Fall 1996 semester.

Faculty, friends and family shared in the accomplishment of the honor students in attendance as the standing room only crowd of over 500 were urged by the programs speakers to continue the search for excellence in every facet of their lives.

"Remain curious and explore your world. Learn from everyone you can"
- Dr. A. Susan Carleo, Valley College Vice President

"Remain curious and explore your world," Valley College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. A. Susan Carleo, said. "Learn from everyone you can."

Valley College President Tyree Wieder said the road to success will require effort and fortitude.

"There are times throughout the year when you work very hard," Wieder said. "It's not an easy task before you."

The honor students in the audience, part of a total list of over 1,400, seemed uniformly pleased to be recognized for achieving an "A" grade point average of 3.5 or better.

"I feel excited," honor student Karine Aslanyan said. "I'm a first time student over here. I come from Russia. I feel great."

Honor student, Tony Figueroa, expressed pleasure in the evolution of his perspective on education.

"As a high school student, I was not the most academically inclined," Figueroa said. "I'm glad things kind of balanced out in adult education. It really feels good to be recognized for actually having smarts."

The guest of honor and keynote speaker at the reception was Dr. Kenneth Washington, President of the Board of Trustees of

See Honors Page 2

David Baldwin/Valley Star

Honor students Alison Scallorns, Melanie Klein, Robert Lane and Michelle Block enjoy the Dean's Reception.

ASU Hosts Women's Fair

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
STAR REPORTER

Information regarding women's issues and concerns was made available to Valley College students at the Associated Student Union sponsored Women's Day Fair held in Monarch Square Friday. Several representatives from local organizations which focus on women's needs participated in the fair, offering literature and one-on-one advice.

"Women don't know what's out there," ASU commissioner and fair coordinator Melanie Klein said. "The purpose of the event is to inform women."

Groups that participated in the fair included: The Feminist Majority Foundation; Date Project; Valley Community Clinic; Theatre of Hope for Abused Women; Haven Hills, Inc.; California Abortion and Reproduction Rights Action League; American Indian Student Association; and individual psychotherapists and authors.

The Feminist Majority Foundation acts to achieve equality for women in politics, economics and society, a representative said. It also informs women of the latest news concerning such topics as abortion and Proposition 209.

The Valley Community Clinic is a nonprofit organization designed to provide health care for people living in poverty, a representative said. It provides medical care, education and counseling on women's health.

The Theatre of Hope for Abused Women is an organization that helps women learn how to recover and live independently through creative art expression classes, a spokeswoman said. Classes are open only by referral from shelters and clinics to women who are fully committed to healing themselves, she said.

Haven Hills, Inc. is a 30-day shelter home and counseling center for abused women and their children. A spokeswoman said. the organization also provides information on recognition of abuse, myths and truths concerning abuse and what to do if a friend or relative is abused.

The California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League is a pro-choice group, a representative said, which is working to find ways to make abortion safe, legal and accessible. It also informs women about sex education, family planning, prenatal care and child/infant care services.

The American Indian Student Association displayed art created by Native American women.

"There is a lot of interest from students," Psychotherapist Dana Dovitch said about the fair. "They should do this at all universities."

WOMEN'S INFO LINES

FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION
Sociopolitical information
(213) 653-2689

DATE PROJECT
Rape prevention and recovery
(818) 885-2111

VALLEY COMMUNITY CLINIC
Health care and information
(818) 763-8836

THEATRE OF HOPE
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(818) 766-9702

HAVEN HILLS
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CALIFORNIA ABORTION AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ACTION LEAGUE
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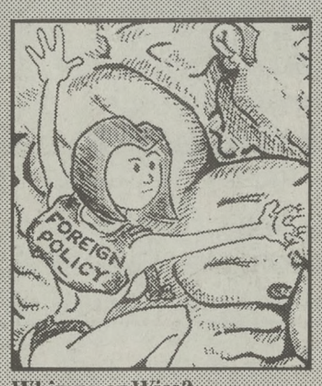
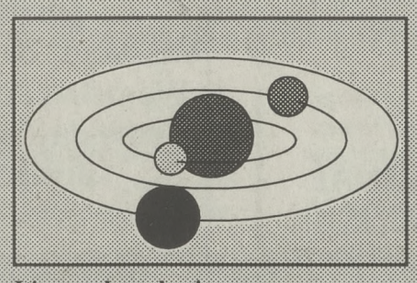
INSIDE



Whimpy or Wise? Page 4

Amy chases audiences. Page 5



It's a mad, mad universe. Page 3

Softball team fights with fire. Page 6

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"I am a living breathing work of art. I am an evolving theme with variations."

Quote Collection:

"Why is it important to celebrate women?"

"First and foremost, I'm a woman. I have six daughters and work full-time. I am a graduate of the nursing program at Valley College. I'm just one of many women that have held jobs and raised a family." - Raquel Scallorns, Valley College alumna

"Because without women, there would be no men. Women have been overlooked and denied appreciation in this society and are not recognized enough." - Larry Hamlin, Valley College student

"Women should be celebrated because we're very good and many of us are not aware of just how good we are. We should support each other and notice there's alot to celebrate." - Dr. Jeanette Armentano, boardmember of National Organization of Women

"I think it's very important because we don't get enough appreciation. Through the ages, women have been looked upon as putting together the house and taking care of children. Nowadays, there are more women in education and the arts that need to be recognized - Monica Castillo, Valley College student

"Women make up 52 percent of the population. For so many years, women have been walking five feet behind the men. I see a cement, not glass, ceiling - highly paid professional positions are still mostly held by men. Women need to know there are support systems for them. There's tremendous support out there." - Armineh Hacopian, Ed.D., career counselor and educator

Women Celebrated

Continued from Page 1

Valley College Black Student Union dancers Inetri Brazil, Wilma Monroe and Latreece Rutherford performed the lively "African Dance of Celebration" to rhythmic African drums.

Native Armenian keynote speaker Dr. Armineh Hacopian told of how she first came to the United States at the age of 16 knowing no English. Hacopian was given an intelligence quotient test for which she scored very low because of her lack of English skills and was falsely labeled a "moron."

"I was lost," Hacopian said. "There are still a lot of lost kids out there." Hacopian stressed the importance of bilingual education.

Hacopian has since earned bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees of which she defiantly mailed copies of her degrees to her former school district.

"If I can do it, anyone can," Hacopian said, encouraging all women and young people. "There are many opportunities out there."

Hacopian, who has a doctorate in education, offered advice to women college students.

"I want to switch the thinking from majors to careers," Hacopian said. "It is very important to know what jobs are in demand. The world is changing very fast. We are in a global setting and we are in a time where community is very important."

Comedienne Carmen Recker kept the audience laughing in her comedy routine which poked fun at the seemingly endless roles women, "the testosterone challenged," play in our society.

"We are woman, proud and strong," the Theatre of Hope for Abused Women recited. "We defy the rainbow; we come in assorted sizes, colors and shapes. We are survivors of a political agenda and cross hostile territory on the street and in the home."

"We are survivors of a political agenda and cross hostile territory on the street and in the home." - Poem Recitation, Theatre of Hope

The evening took a serious turn when the theatre group performed poetry readings about abused women and child molestation in their presentation of "Bitter Truth."

"Wear your scars like jewelry, because you earned them," they read.

The group offered additional musical and dance performances celebrating the loves, life, pain and joy of womanhood, including a three-dimensional performance of poem, dance and music, "Metamorphosis."

"I juggle the art of role play and dance to the beat of others," group leader Rose Monroe recited as Joan Fuller danced and Yavonne Dearth accompanied with voice and percussion. "I am a living breathing work of art. I am an evolving theme with variations."

As a close to the evening, Dr. Candace De Puy and Dr. Jeanette Armentano spoke on healing.

"It is important to come together, telling our truths of feelings and life experiences," De Puy, a psycho therapist, said. "In the 90's, we still have a taboo - the aftermath of abortion. There is still silence, secrets and isolation around this." De Puy is the author of the recently released book, "Healing Choice - Your Guide to Emotional Recovery After an Abortion."

De Puy said she does not discuss the issue of whether a woman should or should not have an abortion, but deals with post-abortion effects.

Armentano, who is a women's basketball coach at CSUN and board member of the San Fernando Valley chapter of the National Organization for Women, spoke on effectively abolishing sexism and "ending all the 'isms'," in our society.

"None of us are damaged for life," Armentano said. "All of us can heal from our hurts."

Armentano suggested that simply listening to each other may help in emotional healing.

"For the people that didn't come to tonight's event - it was their loss," Scallorns said. "A lot of tears were shed. A lot of laughter was enjoyed." Scallorns said she hopes that the Women's Day celebration becomes a tradition at Valley College.

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

LAVC students from the Women's Physical Education Department perform dances for the Senior Day Program Tuesday presented to familiarize local high school students with Valley College.

Honor Reception

Continued from Page 1

the Los Angeles Community College District.

Dr. Washington spoke about how his early perspective on life influenced the direction his life and career took.

"Being kind of dissatisfied with some things has impelled me to do something better with my life," Washington said. "I have never been satisfied with what I have known, the knowledge I have."

Dr. Washington said the challenges he personally has seen, such as starting life with little money and struggling in a society that hindered the upward mobility of a Black man, were simply obstacles to be overcome.

"This has impelled me to work harder," Washington said. "There are things you can change, like your job or knowledge or poverty."

Dr. Washington related a variety of anecdotes about his life during his address.

"I got kicked out of grad school, we won't talk about that," Washington said, laughing. He said he never returned to that school but went on to receive a Bachelors, a Masters and a Ph.D. elsewhere.

"I've always wanted to take my Ph.D. and go back and hit the dean in the nose with it," Washington said.

Dr. Washington brought his speech to a close with a message for students to think beyond the frontiers of their own personal lives and consider how they may improve the condition of mankind and his world.

"We need to think about our atmosphere, our oceans, our fresh water, "Washington said. "The problems of health are unlimited. Why are there so many political hotspots in the world? What can we do to eliminate poverty? What can we do about a society with more people to work than places to work? What can we do about sharing?"

"I think our students need to know the faculty, administration and staff support them." - Yasmin Delahoussaye, Dean of Students

Following Washington's speech, a performance of a Franz Lizst piece, "Mazeppa" was performed by pianist and honor student Chin Kim.

The performance, which was warmly received by the audience, was played with great technical skill and emotion. The piece seemed to evoke feelings the students may face in their future as it swung from a mood of challenge to strength to wistful beauty, peace and resolution.

The masters of ceremonies for the event were Michelle Block, president of the Tau Alpha Epsilon honor society and Robert Lane, president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

"Today truly is a very special day," Lane said. "Phi Theta Kappa is honored to recognize your academic excellence."

"There are over 1,400 people on the Dean's list," Block said. "That is incredible."

In an interview following the reception, Dean of Student Services, Yasmin Delahoussaye spoke concerning the students and their achievements.

"I think our students need to know the faculty, administration and staff support them," Delahoussaye said. "We're willing to spend the time to recognize them for a job well done."

First time honor student, Lisa Bennett said the Dean's List would be an inspiration for continued effort in the future.

"I know it urges you to keep on top," Bennett said. "I feel very honored, as a part-time student working full-time and being able to maintain a high GPA, to be recognized for that."

"It feels great," honor student John Durado said. "You work hard for something and now you're acknowledged for that hard work."

In his congratulatory remarks, John Maddox, Vice President of Academic Affairs, captured the importance of the day for the attending honor students.

'Things move quickly," Maddox said. "Bask in the warmth of the day. Enjoy the commaraderie, soak it up. Enjoy that moment when special times come."

Valley College Gets Healthy

By LINDA E. THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hundreds of Valley College students were offered tips on getting fit at the Health Fair in Monarch Square last week.

"The purpose of the Health Fair is for health education and awareness," Valley College student health coordinator, Jeanne Duran, said. "We also provide screenings at little or no cost to help detect potential problems early."

Several health organizations participated and education materials were handed out to interested students.

The fair provided free medical tests including for HIV, pregnancy, blood pressure, body fat, vision acuity and depression. Guest physicians also offered free examinations in podiatry, chiropractic medicine and dermatology.

The campus Student Health Clinic will provide free HIV testing May 14, 4-7 p.m. and May 15, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Contact the Student Health Clinic at (818) 780-0652 for further information regarding future events.

VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENT HEALTH CLINIC HOURS:

Monday	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Counseling appointments:
Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Located in the Women's Gym
(818) 780-0652

Retiree Luncheon Informs Seniors

By DAVID BALDWIN
STAR REPORTER

A luncheon for retired faculty of Valley College was held last week in Monarch Hall.

Approximately 50 people attended the luncheon, officials said.

Attorney Jay Rose spoke about wills. Paul Davis, an independent insurance broker, spoke about long-term health care and estate planning.

"I thought it was a very valuable meeting," said Ed Samuels, a biology professor currently teaching at Valley College.

A questionnaire was handed out to all attendees requesting future volunteers and ideas about improving future luncheons.

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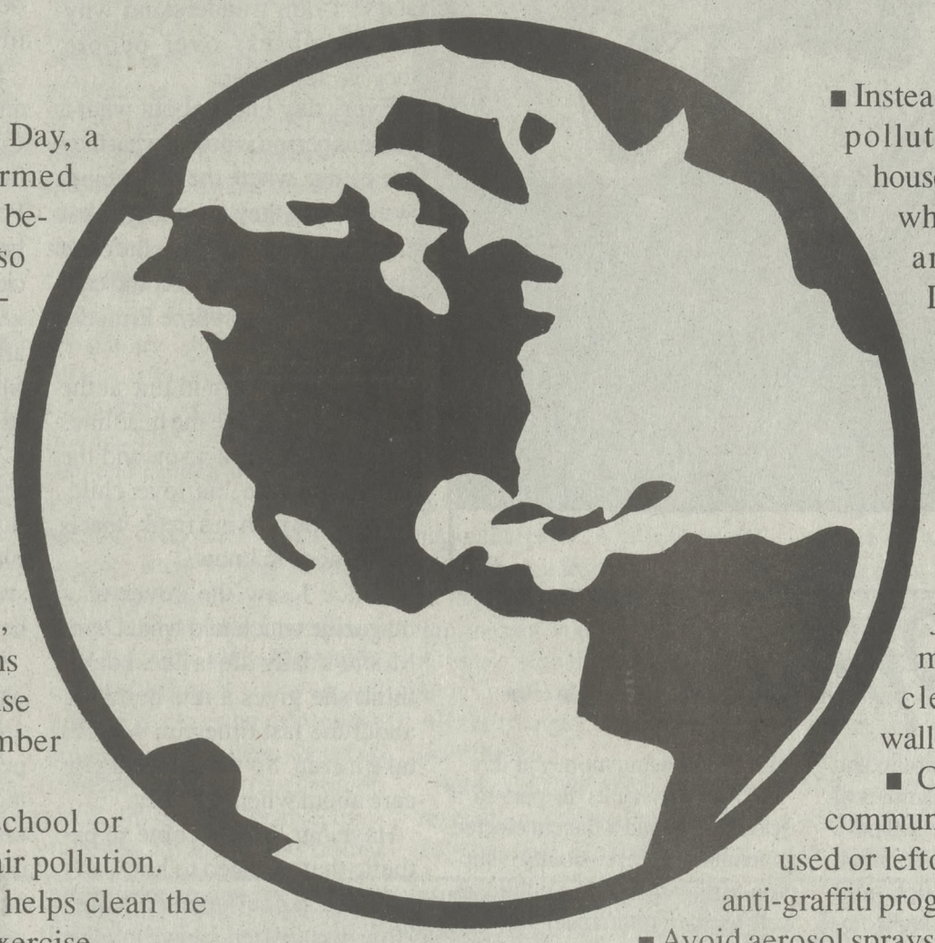
Earth Day Facts and Tips:

Helpful Hints for a Healthy Planet

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
STAR REPORTER



Tuesday was Earth Day, a day to become informed about how the Earth is being mistreated. It is also a time to become informed on how to stop destroying the earth and learn how to fix it.

■ In the United States, 64,000 people are killed prematurely each year by air pollution. In the Los Angeles area, 5,873 premature deaths occur every year because of smog, ranking number one in the nation.

■ Sharing rides to school or work can help reduce air pollution. Riding a bike not only helps clean the air but it is also great exercise.

■ In the United States, four million tons of garbage are wasted every week. To reduce waste, products that are too much to use should be shared with a friend, relative or neighbor.

■ Used motor oil, car batteries and antifreeze are being dumped into the ocean. Take used motor oil to a gas or service station so that it can be recycled instead.

■ Instead of using harmful pollutants to clean a house, use natural things which can be found around the home. Lemon juice cleans windows and glass. It also cleans clothing stains. Ammonia can be used to clean bathrooms, kitchens, even jewelry. Vinegar removes mildew, cleans dishes and walls.

■ Certain civic and community groups accept used or leftover paint for their anti-graffiti programs.

■ Avoid aerosol sprays. Choose the pump spray or other alternatives.

■ Instead of flammable air fresheners, try scented candles or an herbal sachet.

■ Never mix a product containing chlorine with one containing ammonia.

■ Throw out toxic roach pesticides and try placing bay leaves around cracks in a room or use traps.

"Remember, give a hoot and don't pollute!"

Derek's Science Corner

By DEREK MARTIN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Even though comet Hale-Bopp will disappear shortly and will not be seen again for another 2,380 years, there seems to be a question for many: "Where do comets really come from?"

Most astronomers believe comets come from a region within our solar system that extends far beyond Pluto's orbit known as the Kuiper Belt, named after Gerard Kuiper.

There is controversy surrounding the theory that what is commonly know as the planet Pluto is actually a comet .

"In my opinion, the 'controversy' about whether or not Pluto is a planet is a manufactured one," Dr. Alen Hale, co-discoverer of the famed Hale-Bopp comet, said in an e-mail interview last week. "Pluto is far larger than the largest known asteroid and the largest known cometary nucleus."

Pluto is now in its closest distance to the sun and is actually inside of Neptune's orbit. It will remain there until the end of 1998. Kuiper discovered that the tidal forces of Neptune and other planets could not account for Pluto's long and narrow elliptical orbit. Kuiper theorized that other forces must be coming from other sources beyond our solar system, thereby discovering the Kuiper Belt in 1951.

"While Pluto does not fit the characteristics of an Earth-like planet, to restrict our definition of 'planet' to mean either objects like Earth or like Jupiter is to be far too narrow in our definition," Hale said.

There is question as to the origin of Pluto. It is yet to be determined whether Pluto is a planet, a comet trapped in an orbital plane around our sun or a lost moon of Neptune.

"I am quite sure that, once we can determine characteristics for planets orbiting around other stars, we will find objects quite unlike anything in our own solar system, as indeed seems to be the case already, and we will have to stretch our definition of the word 'planet'," Hale said. "Until such time as someone can come up with a definition of 'planet' that astronomers can agree on and which excludes Pluto, I will continue to call Pluto a 'planet'."

NASA is presently proposing to launch a duel satellite system, the "Pluto Express," in the year 2001 to research Pluto and its moon up close. The satellites will reach Pluto in the year 2014. After the analysis is done on these two "little worlds," one of the satellites will then make its way out into deeper regions beyond Pluto's orbit to study objects in the Kuiper Belt.

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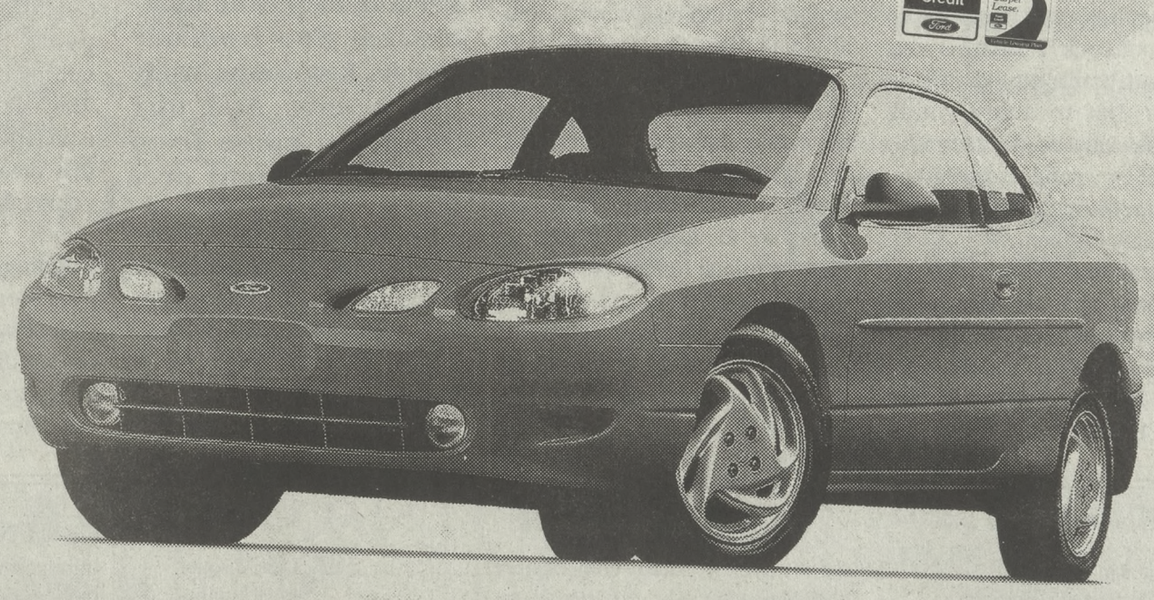

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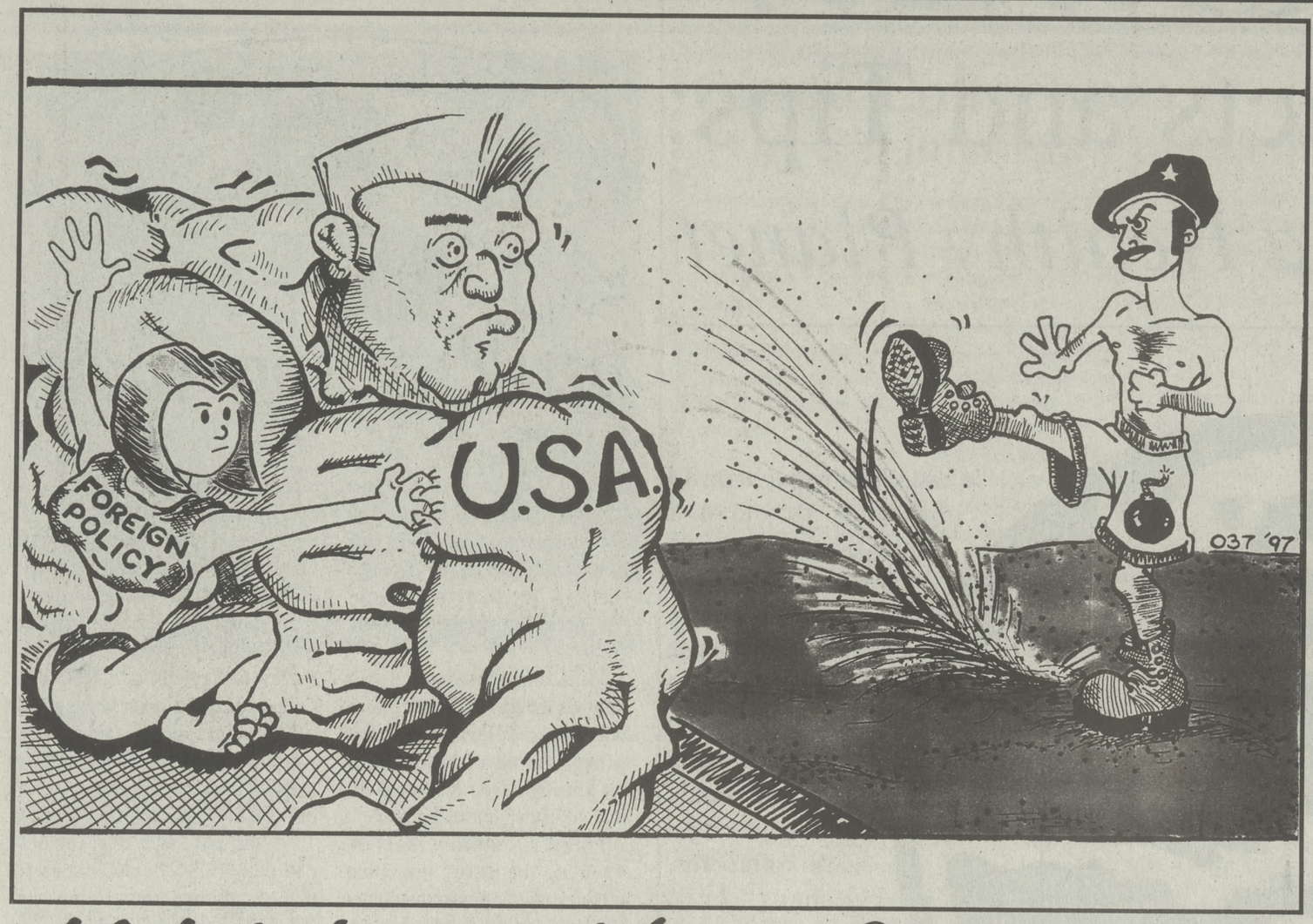
OPINION



Liz Strikes Back

Hollywood, Schmollywood!

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
OPINION EDITOR

What is the deal with the fascination with Hollywood and its stars? I don't understand why people obsess over people they've never met.

Every day I hear about what a famous person is doing: what they are eating, where they are going, with whom they are going, what they are wearing, who they are dating. Know what? I could care less about the last time Princess Di got laid.

Every time I am in line at the supermarket, I see the headlines about Michael Jackson and the latest news on his love child. People, the man is a freak- that is all we need to know.

Once I saw the cover of a magazine which told what Demi Moore's daily life is like. I don't think she gives a rats bumhole about the last time you went to take a crap. So why should you care about when she does.

Have our lives become so pathetic that we need to know every second of a superstar's life? How dissatisfied are we that we cannot concentrate on our own lives.

There are TV shows dedicated to snooping around on these people's lives. There Is Extra, Access Hollywood and Entertainment Tonight. There is even a whole channel, E!, dedicated to gossiping about Hollywood all day for Pete's sake.

Then there are the tabloid shows: A Current Affair, American Journal, Hard Copy and Inside Edition, not to mention the countless magazines: Star, The Enquirer, The Globe and People.

I feel sorry for these celebrities-they have no privacy. What kind of a life is that? They are stalked and hounded.

I can tell you an instance that occurred to me before I gained my wisdom.

Three years ago, some friends and I were driving down Pacific Coast Highway, when low and behold next to us in a black Porsche was Charlie Sheen. We, being the dorks we were, decided to follow him until we could get his attention. We chased him all across Malibu beach until he finally looked over and waved at us.

Can you picture this? Four teenage girls in a giant blue van, hunting down a person, faces plastered to the window and the stupid look on their faces when he finally noticed them.

Looking back, I realize, boy was I an idiot!

Even dumber still, are those people who camped out overnight in front of the Shrine Auditorium just to see movie stars get out of their cars for the Academy Awards. Like the movie stars care.

Those who buy maps to the Hollywood stars' homes are just as bad.

We need to prefer reality. I know I will never be famous and I will never know anyone famous. We should be proud of our lives and not feel the need to find out what a celebrity is doing. Kudos for those who live in reality.

Between you and I though, I will confess when I heard David Duchovny is considering marrying his girlfriend, my heart was crushed. That bitch.

If I Wanted Your Opinion...

This Week's Topic: Pacifists

By LEO "TIGER" SMITH
STAR REPORTER

It shocks me; yes, shocks me, that the average American would rather see all the homeless fed than to have another B-2 stealth bomber built. Shocked.

I'm paraphrasing here, but the great Chinese strategist Sun Tszu reminds us that the best way to protect the peace is to prepare for war. This sound advice is being blatantly ignored in a time when it is most needed.

Inevitably, budget cuts find their way to the hallowed halls of the Pentagon, our country's most important bureaucracy. During the cold war, the war department received umpteen trillions to defeat the Russians in an eagle and bear race for a better way to kill. For those that missed it, we won. Now in the afterglow of our orgasmic victory over the Soviets, some are calling for an end to the "frivolous" funding.

I say it was never enough.

The end times are at hand, and whether you believe that or not is irrelevant. Dictators with penis envy are crawling out of their third-world holes to challenge the heavy weight champion of the world to a toe to toe match.

> "If you are one of those people who believe communication can solve any conflict, here is a flashlight. You can use it when you're where the sun don't shine."

These are dangerous times, spawning situations that have to be dealt with unwavering force. If you are one of those people who believe communication can solve any conflict, here is a flashlight. You can use it when you're where the sun don't shine.

Khadafi, Hussein, Mbutu and Milosevic are mere examples of how bad the cretins we will have to deal with can get. Millennium fever and Apocalyptic delusions will be the fuel for up and coming miscreants who want to leave their mark on humanity by wanting to control or destroy it.

Almost everyone can agree with me that we need to ventilate these Napoleonites before they can do any real harm. That is where undisputed military supremacy enters the picture.

Imagine for a moment, a time when global bullies are so afraid of retaliation from an unbeatable war machine that they dare not shoot anything but rhetoric. This will be a time when casualties are used to denote destroyed equipment rather than American lives.

Everyone should realize that reality is within our grasp, we just need to take that leap of faith by throwing money at it.

However, thanks in part to a fickle public and a flaccid elected government, that possibility is slipping further away. The public, as well as the commander in chief demand major cuts in military funding while requiring that same military to police every third-world corner of the planet. Does anyone see a problem with that?

To remain on top globally, we have to be a formidable foe to all that would challenge the sovereignty of the USA. That entails a military force so complete in its lethality that the only blood shed in a conflict will be by those poor bastards on the other side.

As for all you couch potato anarchists, spare me your anti-American, evil empire, gibberish. I love the smell of Mom's apple pie in the morning. It smells like...victory.

Next Week:
Environmentalists

Is Your Mind Dancing?

By DEEANNE McCLAIN
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

America is becoming illiterate.

One out of every five American adults are functionally illiterate and every year, 2.2 million people are added to the adult illiterate population of the United States, according to the Literacy Counsel of Northern Virginia.

What has happened to us? Whatever happened to curling up with a good book? Reading is what keeps our brains strong. It's no wonder that so many young people have that dead look in their eyes. They spend entirely too much time letting technology run their brains for them.

It seems that everyone is excited about what technology can do and most people assume that it requires genius just to use. It appears to improve our lives, but the truth is that technology only facilitates the deadening of our brains.

Television spends a great deal of time sucking that glow from our cheeks, keeping us inside our homes and our brains on pause from any real thought process. What about the Internet? What about video games? Do these things really contribute anything to society? The only good thing about looking things up on the Net, is that you are sometimes forced to actually read. But what about books?

I can't even remember the last time someone told me about a good book they had read. I am a full-time student at Valley and the only people I have heard talk about good books are the teachers! Hello out there! Anyone home? How about skipping that video and spending two hours reading a good novel?

The fact that our nation is not reading is not just depressing to those of us who believe in literature and pop fiction. It is downright scary. The Council also said approximately 50-75 percent of unemployed adults have minimal or no literacy skills. The Department of Labor estimates that illiteracy costs businesses and taxpayers $25 billion a year.

> **"Television spends a great deal of time sucking that glow from our cheeks, keeping us inside our homes and our brains on pause from any real thought process."**

Just to solve problems that one encounters in daily life, reading and writing competence is necessary. To take advantage of opportunities given to the average American, one must be proficient in these skills. How many of us out there groan when a teacher assigns an essay? How many students actually understand and complete reading assignments? If everyone read and wrote well, we'd all be "A" students.

What makes me downright depressed about the seeming lack of enthusiasm our country and specifically, our country's young people have toward reading and writing is what they are missing. They are missing out on a whole wonderful world inside their souls that breaks free when one truly connects with another through words.

Pulitzer Prize winning author Toni Morrison said, "The purpose of writing and publishing is to create and distribute knowledge. One reads to experience one's mind dancing with another's."

Letter to the Editor

The article on skateboarding [April 10] was very interesting, although somewhat slanted. I say slanted not in a derogatory sense, but feel that it was slanted in that it only depicted one side of the story and was somewhat lacking in facts.

As to harassing the skateboarders: **We don't.** Yes, we do contact these skateboarders and advise them of the civil liability that the college could incur if we allowed them to skate on college property.

As to their doing nothing destructive, trash barrels have been turned over in the areas that they skate and the long heavy benches are pulled out on the steps to be used as their launching ramps and not put back. They do make noise and we have received complaints that they are disruptive and bother classes that are still in session.

We have yet to make an arrest or issue a citation, which we lawfully could do, but we have attempted to handle them in a positive manner.

When they do see us approach, they turn and scoot in the opposite direction. They know that they have been warned and should not be on college property. They are, in effect, trespassing, after having been previously warned.

Your College Police do wish to maintain a positive approach to policing, but we must protect the college from litigation and sometimes the violators even have to be protected from themselves.

Lt. Robert R. Reeves
Valley College Police

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LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS * LETTERS

The *Valley Star* will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be left with the *Valley Star* at BJ 114 by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

'Amy' Does Hollywood

By LEO SMITH
STAR REPORTER

Unfortunately, it is a rare occasion when a film comes along and makes one forget that they just spent seven bucks on it.

"Chasing Amy" is one of those movies you wouldn't mind taking out a mortgage to see. This movie is a powerhouse display of humor and sensitivity, attributes seldom seen on the silver screen. This certain quality of je ne sais quoi is a trademark to the film's writer/director, Kevin Smith.

Smith's previous theatrical efforts include the slacker indi-smash "Clerks" and the painfully hilarious, yet critically panned "Mallrats." Both films, though lacking definitive plots, relied heavily on dead-on dialogue plus the philosophy and observations of twenty-somethings. The humor and dialogue strike close to home for those of the "Star Wars" generation and make them infinitely enjoyable.

If Smith's movies have any definable faults, his juvenile comedic tendencies must top the list. Though endearing, critics in general, other than this one, tend to find his subject matter immature.

No longer. "Chasing Amy" is a stunningly lucid story of taboo love, an impossible affair-a lesbian falling for a man.

The tale unfolds in New York City at a comic book convention where we meet Holden, the cool Ben Affleck, and Banky, skateboarding champ, Jason Lee. These two lifelong friends are the creators of the incredibly successful comic "The Adventures of Bluntman and Chronic," a tale of Jay, Jason Mewes and Silent Bob, Kevin Smith, regulars in all of Smith's films and the absurd comic relief and an inside joke for fans of Smith's previous films.

Holden and Banky are introduced by a mutual friend to Alyssa, the shrill voiced Joey Adams, a fellow comic book artist, though a notably less successful one. The group go out for a beer and Holden and Alyssa are soon left alone. They gab, drink and toss darts before going their separate ways without so much as a phone number swap.

Days later, Holden gets invited by Alyssa to a club. Holden interprets this as a come-on and brags to Banky, who then invites himself along. Holden shows up strutting and lays the charm on thick. Alyssa more than reciprocates the advances, thus further bolstering Holden's ego. So, just as Holden reaches the apex of his masculine pride, Alyssa drops the bomb-she's a lesbian.

Now if this were a cheaper film, the plot would revolve around Alyssa's sexuality and the carnal antics of the Holden, Banky and Alyssa triangle. Thankfully, this isn't the case.

Holden, in light of this explosive revelation, is forced to deal with Alyssa as just a friend, a relationship that begins to alienate him from Banky. As is usually the case with men, Holden is incapable of maintaining a real friendship with Alyssa without constantly battling nature and the urge to merge.

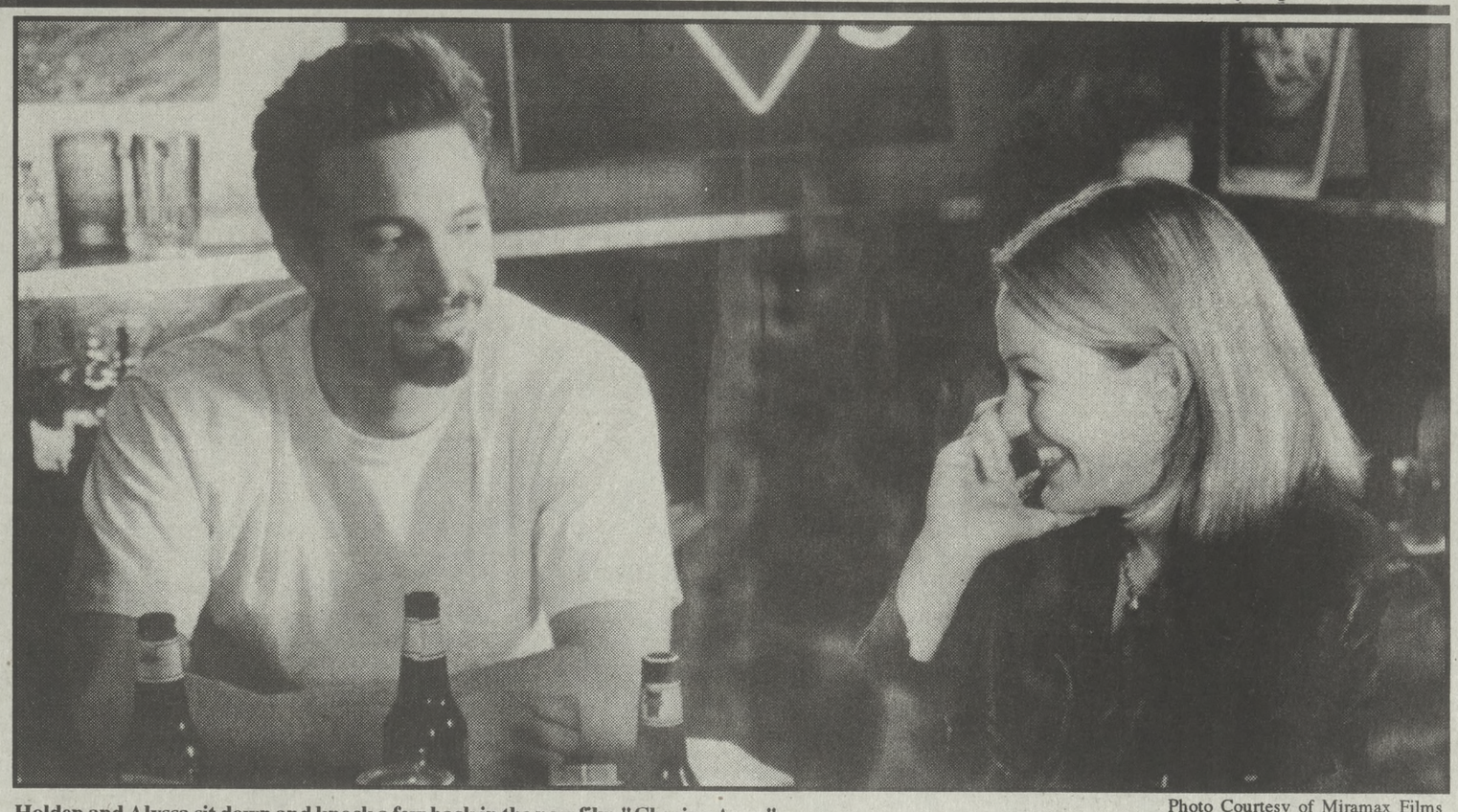
Now, herein lies the true charm of this film-portraying how to deal with a new relationship complete with the baggage brought from previous relationships. The film is touching in its portrayal of the bitter jealousy and envy that ensues from the inability to accept someone for who they are, not who he wants her to be.

Affleck, Lee and Adams are excellent in their respective roles and shine with the given material. Holden is a subtly repressed nice guy, Banky is the quintessential A-hole and Alyssa is the wild girl you wish you knew in high school.

Smith is, well, a "word-smith" and a keen observer of humanity. His characters exude an individuality seldom seen in modern tales they are familiar to the audience because they resemble the people around us.

Inevitably, you will leave this film in an introspective mood, analyzing and regretting how you treated that one true love that entered your life, for however fleeting a moment.

As for the relevance of the title of the film, to give that away would be criminal.



Holden and Alyssa sit down and knock a few back in the new film "Chasing Amy."

Photo Courtesy of Miramax Films

The LAVC Concert Series Chimes On

By ALICE GARABEDIAN
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The 1997 Campus Concert Series presented a wonderful solo and duo pianist in the Music Recital Hall on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The very talented Paul Da Silva performed several Sonata's in A major to a very attentive audience that occupied every seat in the room.

Selections performed were "Allegro molto moderato," "Largo," "Allegro vivace" and "Con delicatezza" from Fantasia for piano. This was the most intriguing part of the performance, watching their four hands come together to create a perfect sound, which caught the audience attention.

"The best part of it all, was when they were playing together," one audience member said. "I really enjoyed it."

Alice Garabedian/Valley Star

Concert pianist Paul Da Silva performs at the Music Recital Hall before a full house Sunday.

Da Silva is a seasoned performer in the Los Angeles area as a soloist, recitalist and chamber music pianist. He is currently a music lecturer at Valley College and the piano artist-in-residence at Whittier College.

Da Silva has performed in concert with the West Valley Symphony and has been featured on numerous concert series including the Whittier Chamber Music Series, CSUN Chamber Music Series, Pacific Composer Forum and Classical Blitz.

Outside of California, Da Silva has performed recitals in New York City, was a guest recitalist at the International Festival of Music in Texas and has performed in concert with the Centennial Philharmonic in Denver.

He has received both graduate and undergraduate degrees on full scholarship from the Mannes College of Music in New York City.

Hae Sun Pope, an alumna of Valley College and at CSUN, sat quietly next to Da Silva as he played his sonatas, turning his pages quickly so he did not miss a note, until it was her turn to perform a duo with Da Silva.

Pope began her piano studies at the age of 6 in Korea before she moved to the U.S. in 1972. She now accompanies all the student recitals.

Upcoming music performances at LAVC include: Today at 11 a.m. pianist Pope; The LAVC Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra on Fri. at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater, $10 general admission, $7 for students and senior citizens; The LAVC Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall, $6 general admission, $5 for students and senior citizens.

Whats HOT & Whats NOT

	HOT	NOT
1. Television Shows	Seindfeld	Pauly Shore
2. Make-Up:	Clinique	Cover Girl
3. Movies:	"Private Parts"	"Vegas Vacation"
4. Shoes:	Doc Martins	Sandals
5. Music:	Anything but Rap	Rap
6. Solo Artists:	Fiona Apple	Michael Jackson
7. Cars:	Dodge Viper	Ford Pinto
8. Stars:	John Cusack	Luke Perry
9. Eating Spots:	In-N-Out	Booger King
10. Stores:	GAP	Wet Seal
11. Hair Do's:	Straight	Permed
12. Hang-Out spots:	Coffee Shops	Malls
13. Fashion:	Light Colors	Morbid Black
14. Pick-Up lines:	"You with so many curves and me without brakes."	"Do your feet hurt?".....Girls, you know the rest to this one.
15. Clubs:	Grandville	The Arena
16. Author:	Stephen King	Jackie Collins
17. Things you hear on a first date:	"Want to go out again?"	"It's not you, it's me."
18. Things to do on a a first date:	Have coffee	Learn exactly how uncomfortable the backseat of a '63 VW bug really is.
19. Tattoos	On the arm	On the butt
20. Piercings:	Navel	Where the sun don't shine.
And the top 21st thing that is Hot and Not in 1997 is.....		
21. Girls:	Me	Every other girl on the planet.

The opinion of Alice Garabedian has no reflection on the *VALLEY STAR* newspaper staff. This top 20 list is purely for entertainment purposes only. No animals were hurt during this experiment.

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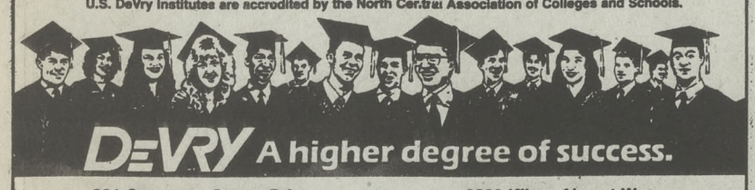

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Valley Softball Team Remains Full of Fight and Fire

By BEN ALTER
SPORTS EDITOR

Even the youngest of teams can prove that heart and determination will bring results.

But unfortunately, the results aren't always a victory as the Valley softball team showed in their past two games.

They squared off against Santa Barbara College April 17 and Cuesta College Tuesday.

They suffered a 6-0 loss to Santa Barbara, but went down with a fight.

Valley they went down in a 7-0 loss to Cuesta. In that game, Valley pitcher Kim Scott allowed only seven hits, struck out one batter and walked three batters.

Head Coach Kodee Murray signaled to Scott to walk one of the batters because the batter had already hit two line drives to center field earlier in the game. Scott also hit one batter with a wild pitch, giving the batter a free trip to first base.

Leading hitters Norma Dorado and Amber Gutierrez struggled in Tuesday's game, both finished hitless for the day. On the season they are batting .375 and .370, respectively.

Valley's star hitter Tuesday was Vanessa Sapatta who had the first hit of the game with a single that bounced over the pitcher's head.

Valley's losses could probably be attributed to errors. The team had five errors against Cuesta, and Scott has 30 errors this season. However, these mistakes are not uncommon with a young team, coaches say.

Most of the team should be returning next year, Murray said, and should return with the experience that the team needs to go farther next year.

"This team has a lot of heart," Murray said. "The girls get down because they're losing the close games. They are a young team and haven't played at this level or caliber of softball."

The team is made up of 11 freshman and two sophmores. Murray said the team could become a contender next year, due to the fact that they'll have a solid core of veteran players returning.

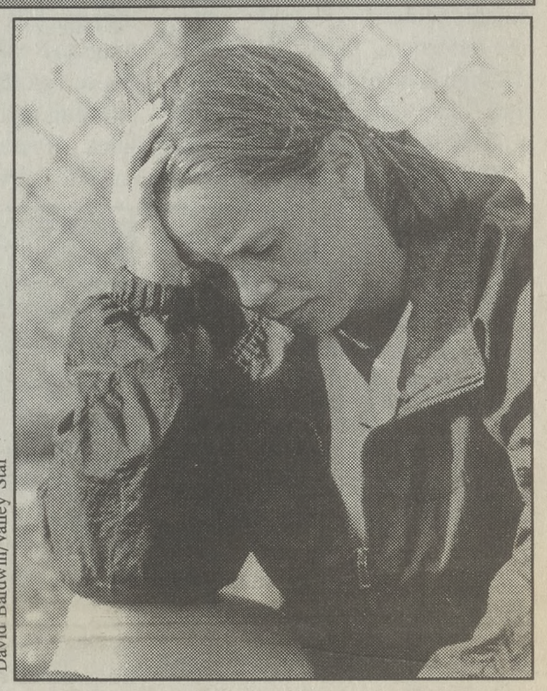
Another factor that Murray said could be a cause of the losing streak, is the fact that the program was restarted only three years ago after a five year break because of budgeting problems.

Murray has been with the team since the program came back into existence and said she hopes that the team's growth will continue with the same fast pace.

"This team has a lot of heart," student assistant Rudy Montanez said. "Other coachs have been coming up to us and saying that we have a team of fighters. That's the basis of any great team, heart and determination."

The team has a 7-8 record this season.

Carolla Danielsson/Valley Star



David Baldwin/Valley Star

(Above) A Valley College Softball Player slides safely back to second base as Santa Barbara tries to throw her out on a pick-off play. (Right) Valley Pitcher Kim Scott sits in disappointment after a tough loss to Cuesta College.

Player Profile

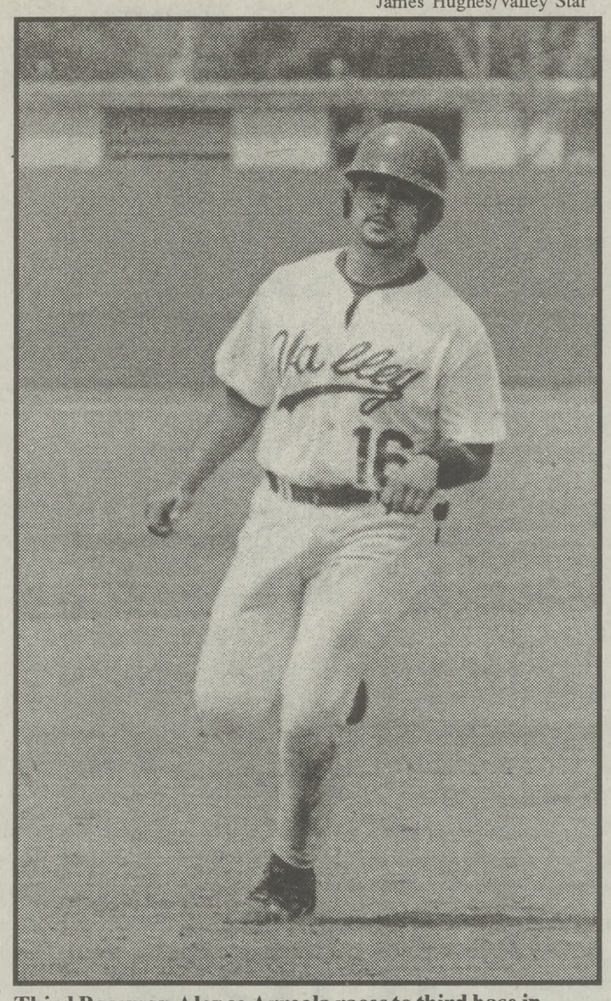
Kim Scott, one of the three pitchers on the Valley Softball team, has had her share of struggles this season , along with the rest of the team.

Scott is a freshman, graduating from Crescenta Valley High School.

So far this season Scott has compiled a 6-5 record, with 25 strikeouts, 16 walks and an earned run average of 3.00.

"She is a great pitcher," Coach Kodee Murray said. "She just needs some practice to develop a little more control. She is still young though and once she has a little more experience under her belt, she'll be unstoppable."

James Hughes/Valley Star



Third Baseman Alonso Arreola races to third base in Saturday's game against Bakersfield.

Valley Nine Play an All Around Game

By ALLEN COCHRANE
Star Reporter

The Valley Monarchs baseball team was working on all cylinders Saturday, coming away with a well earned 5-1 win over the Bakersfield Renegades at the Valley ball park Saturday.

The old baseball axiom says hitting brings patrons to the park but pitching and defense keeps them in the seats. Valley kept those fans in the bleachers happy with quality pitching and reliable glove work all afternoon.

Starting pitcher, Ruben Lopez, who worked into the eighth inning till he was pulled for a reliever, held Bakersfield to only one run on five hits and three walks.

Lopez had few problems during the afternoon, the most notable exception occurred in the second inning. Back to back doubles drove in the lone Renegade run but Lopez handled the pressure and closed out the inning by getting the last out with a lazy pop to third.

A bases loaded jam in the fifth was the only other time Lopez was tested but great defense by third baseman Alonso Arreola, who snagged a sharply hit grounder and beat the runner from second to the bag, stifled the last gasp for Bakersfield.

Valley hitters gave their pitchers all the run support needed in the first inning.

Dylan Forman led off the inning with a single followed by a single by Kris Rossfield. The throw from third was high and the runners advanced to second and third. The Bakersfield pitcher then threw a wild pitch, scoring the runner from third. Brad Farlow then drew a walk and stole second. With runners on second and third, Mike Wertz came up with the blow that drove in the game's winning run with a single through the middle infield, driving in two runners.

Relief pitching was outstanding in the game for Valley.

Ric Gonzalez came in to replace reliever Frank Ozaeta in the eighth when Ozaeta left after one batter with shoulder problems, and threw two strong innings.

Gonzalez closed out Bakersfield with three quick outs in the eighth and shut them down in the ninth after a leadoff double.

Valley coach, Chris Johnson, was pleased with the overall effort of his team and said it was the team working together, not individuals, that makes for a satisfying win.

"These kids are all trying hard and that says a lot," Johnson said. "They've been developing, getting better, and they played pretty well today."

Johnson said pitchers, Lopez and Gonzalez both looked great on the mound.

"Lopez had great action today," Johnson said. "We got him a week's worth of rest so he was fresh and did great. Gonzalez threw the ball great today too, so that was good."

Johnson said the team responded well in the face of pressure to close out the win, with the pitchers and fielders staying composed and doing the job.

"It's continued development on learning how to win," Johnson said. "We don't get blown out of games. If we lose it's by one or two. What we do to make up those runs is important. We're learning how to win in tight situations."

Left fielder, Wertz, complimented his teammates for their effort in the game and the attitude of the players.

"The pitching was awesome, Ruben did real well," Wertz said. "Ric shut down their rally in the eighth, that was clutch. I'm proud of our team for not giving up. It's easy to go into the tank when you're in last place."

Second baseman, Forman, said winning against Bakersfield and knocking them out of a tie for first in the conference was a good omen for the rest of the year and next season.

"Its sort of a building year," Forman said. "To beat these guys is sort of a statement for us for next year. This team can play. It's just a matter of time. We're learning every day."

Valley is now 7-27 overall, and 6-14 in conference play.

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Remaining Schedule of Sporting Events

	Opponents	Time	Location
Baseball			
April 26	Glendale	3:30	Glendale
April 29	Mission	3:30	Valley
May 1	Bakersfield	3:30	Bakersfield
May 3	Pierce	3:30	Valley
Softball			
April 26	Santa Monica	2:00	Valley
April 29	Moorpark	3:30	Moorpark
Track			
April 29	Western State Finals	9:00	College of the Canyons
Swimming			
April 24-26	Western States Conference Championships	All Day	Ventura

Notice: In the April 17 issue of the *Valley Star*, photo credits were inadvertantly omitted from the Athletes of the Month photos. These photos were taken by John Tarr.